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Date: November 24, 2008

Signature:  (Quyen Nguyen)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/798,465  
Confirmation No.: 6106  
Filing Date: March 11, 2004  
Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.  
Title: SURGICAL FASTENER  
Examiner: Glenn K. Dawson  
Group Art Unit: 3731

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Response accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a five-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to November 23, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.